

The NUNES Report

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President visits 21st Cong. District

Bush calls Ruiz Foods founder, Fred Ruiz, the 'embodiment of the American Dream'

President George W. Bush made a historic stop in Fresno and Tulare counties in October, delivering a speech to an enthusiastic crowd at Ruiz Foods in Dinuba.

The president paid tribute to Ruiz Foods founder, Fred Ruiz, whom he said "is the embodiment of the American Dream."

He also called on the Senate to pass the American Dream Downpayment Act, which will help minority and lower income citizens buy a home. Rep. Devin Nunes has been a principal sponsor of the initiative through the Congressional Hispanic Conference.

During his brief stay, the president also recognized other local dignitaries and one Visalian.

"When I landed at the airport I met a fellow named Denny Klaseus. Denny brought some of his family with him. You know, there's a lot -- the reason I bring up Denny is there's a lot of talk about our country's military might, and were strong and I'm going to keep us strong.



Hundreds of people gathered at Ruiz Foods in Dinuba to hear President George W. Bush speak Oct. 15.

And there is talk about the economy and the wealth of the country, and we'll do everything we can to make sure the economy grows. But the true strength of the country is the heart and souls of our American citizens. That's our strength. It's the thing that makes this country incredibly strong. I bring up Denny because he is what we call a soldier in the army of compassion.

Out of the First Church of the Nazarene, he has become a volunteer, see. He has heard the call, the universal call of all religions to love a neighbor just like

you'd like to be loved yourself. He helps each month to organize and pick up food donations. He knows when somebody is hungry and hurts, there needs to be love to help that person.

Denny sets a great example. The Ruiz Company sets a good example by encouraging people like Denny to volunteer."

After the 45-minute address, Rep. Nunes road in the motorcade with the president to a luncheon in Fresno.

Quick Facts



Rep. Devin Nunes meets with Nagorno Karabakh President Arkady Ghukasian in Fresno to talk about trade between the U.S. and Armenia.



Make a Difference Day

Hundreds of people in Visalia turned out during the annual Make a Difference Day to help clean up and beautify city parks and other areas.

Rep. Devin Nunes and staff members joined Golden West High School students at Blain Park in south east Visalia to paint benches and tables, as well as repair arbors.

The congressman and staff spent about three hours at the park along with the students.

Make a Difference Day is a nationwide effort that calls on residents to volunteer their time to do good works for the community.

“In many ways our quality of life is a product of the generous spirit of the residents of our communities,” Rep. Nunes said.

“Whether its donating food and clothes, caring for the homeless or investing your time and talent in the lives of kids, volunteerism makes a difference wherever it is applied.”

Rep. Devin Nunes' California staff

From left to right, back row: Rep. Nunes, Bob Jennings, Nicky Henderson, Matt Rogers, Ed Galvan and Marge Risi.

From left to right in the front row: John Gong, Justin Stoner, Melanie Swager and Johnny Amaral.

Nunes wins 'True Blue' award for family

Rep. Devin Nunes honored for his unwavering commitment to the family when the Family Research Council (FRC) awarded him with the annual “True Blue” award at a reception on Capitol Hill.

The award honors members of the House and Senate who have exhibited extraordinary leadership and dedication to the defense of family, faith, and freedom. According to FRC's new scorecard covering House and Senate votes during the 108th Congress, recipients of the award voted for pro-life and pro-family issues on

a variety of occasions.

These votes included

- banning partial-birth abortion
- funding abstinence and marriage promotion programs
- preventing abortions in military hospitals
- encouraging faith-based initiatives
- calling for votes on President Bush's judicial nominees
- banning human cloning
- repealing the death tax

- prohibiting U.S. funding of international abortions
- promoting abstinence as part of global AIDS relief.

“The members of the 108th Congress who received this award have been consistent, stalwart allies of American families,” said FRC President Tony Perkins.

“They are to be commended for their adherence to the belief that strong marriages and families are essential aspects of a resilient society.”

Nunes hosts hearing on illicit drug production in forests



Rep. Devin Nunes hosted a Congressional hearing on the problem of drug production on public lands.

The hearing in October featured the chairmen of two House subcommittees: House Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs

chaired by Rep. Doug Ose (R-Sacramento) and the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources chaired by Rep. Mark Souder (R-Indiana).

The hearing focused on problems with pot, opium and meth on public lands. Along these lines Chairman Doug Ose has introduced

legislation this year called the CLEAN UP Meth Act (CLEAN UP stands for Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production). The bill is a comprehensive approach to combating meth, including provisions to help alleviate:

- the environmental problems caused by meth production
- the human problems caused by meth use, abuse and addiction, and
- the challenges faced by our law enforcement community.

Both Chairman Souder and Rep. Nunes have co-sponsored the bill, as have dozens of other lawmakers.

As part of the hearing, the congressman's staff toured a newly discovered pot plantation in the forest with an elaborate irrigation system.

Nunes seeks Olympic visit for past athletes

In honor of America's famous Olympic athletes from years past, Rep. Devin Nunes wrote to President George Bush recently asking him to send a delegation of former American Olympic Champions as Bush's personal representatives to Athens, Greece. Some of the American heroes suggested to be included in the group would represent a cross section of the nation:

Bob Mathias - Decathlon champion - 1948 (London) and 1952 (Helsinki);

Dr. Sammy Lee - Diving - 1948 (London) and 1952 (Helsinki);

Billy Mills - 10,000 me-

ter champion - 1964 (Tokyo);

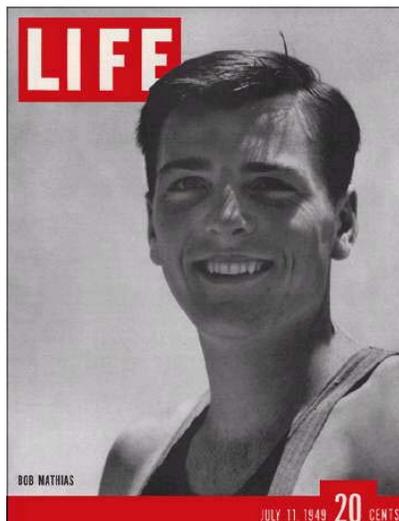
Patricia McCormick - Diving - 1952 (Helsinki) and 1956 (Melbourne);

Rafer Johnson - Decathlon - 1960 (Rome);

Pablo Morales - Swimming - 1984 (Los Angeles) and 1992 (Barcelona).

One of the most celebrated heroes of the Olympics is gold medalist Bob Mathias.

Mathias was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Tulare County and elsewhere.



Local Olympic hero and former Congressman Bob Mathias on the cover of Life magazine

Legislative work presses into fall

Agriculture

Disaster Assistance

Congressman Nunes became a co-sponsor of H.R. 3157, which will provide coordinated disaster assistance to farmers in the event of an agricultural disaster. The proposed law would designate the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a disaster liaison during official disaster declarations. The agriculture disaster liaison office would be established locally on a per case basis, and would be tasked with coordinating communication with farmers during an emergency.

Dairy

Recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) actions in the butter market have negatively affected American producers. Last year, more than half of the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) butter allocations were unused, despite record low farm market prices. Congressman Nunes joined San Joaquin Valley colleagues in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Veneman expressing his concern about the continuation of this policy.

Value-Added Products

The 2002 Farm Bill established funding for the Value-Added Development Product grant program. This program helps farmers access much needed capital for product innovation. Congressman Nunes expressed his support for Diamond of California's application for funding under this program, which will provide seed money for the development

of a snack food product. Diamond proposes marketing the walnuts, produced by its' 1,900 growers, outside of the traditional baking market. The ambitious plan calls for making the new snack nuts available in 80 percent of the nation's retail grocery stores.

The Value-Added Development grant program provides essential capital to cooperatives and enables growers to expand the value of their commodity through new markets. The California and Arizona based cotton cooperative, Calcot, which represents 1,460 growers, has sought funding through this Rural Development Program to enhance the regional identity of their cotton and to vertically integrate production. Congressman Nunes strongly supports this endeavor and sent a support letter to Secretary Veneman on Calcot's behalf.

Jobs

Congressman Nunes sent a letter to all Members of Congress asking them to support H.R. 3142, the Agriculture Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act (AgJOBS). This letter invites other Members to become co-sponsors of the legislation that would allow experienced and trusted workers with a significant work history in American agriculture to stay here legally and earn adjustment to legal status. For the long term, the currently broken and cumbersome H2-A legal guest worker program would be overhauled and made more streamlined, practical and secure. This legislation would be an achievable ap-

proach to resolving current problems and preventing a growing crisis that threatens American agriculture, workers, and consumers.

Methyl Bromide

Farmers in the United States have been severely impacted by reductions in the availability of methyl bromide, which is an essential component of U.S. fruit and vegetable production.

Under the provisions of a treaty signed by President Clinton (the Montreal Protocol), the U.S. must petition the United Nations through a critical use exemption process in order to continue using methyl bromide. However, there is no guarantee that our request for authorization to use methyl bromide will be approved. In such a circumstance, American farmers would be subject to enormous losses and our nation's farm economy would be severely damaged.

Congressman Nunes is cosponsoring legislation that will require the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize methyl bromide use at the level requested through the CUE process even if the international organization denies our nation's request. This will allow agricultural commodities from throughout the US, which have gone through a rigorous CUE approval process at the EPA, to continue using methyl bromide after the 2005 phase out.

Appropriations

Transportation

As the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations Conference Committee finalizes their fiscal year 2004 fund-

Legislative work—cont.'d

ing bill, Rep. Nunes expressed his support for the \$4 million included for the City of Visalia, California's Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility. In the letter, he urged that this provision remain in the bill. This funding will help build a bus operations and maintenance center to service City of Visalia buses and those of Tulare County. This project will replace a leased facility that is currently too small and inadequate to meet the expanding needs of the City's transit services.

The center will provide approximately 31,500 square feet of building space for bus administration, operations, and maintenance on 6.2 acres, and will accommodate the use of alternative fuels, automatic vehicle location and other technologies available to the transit industry. The facility will be able to handle at least 50 transit buses with plenty of room to expand. The total project cost is \$8.6 million.

Crime

Community Policing

In a letter to Chairman Frank Wolf of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, Rep. Nunes expressed his continued support for two highly successful federal programs to control illegal drug use and production. The Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program has been an effective tool to help state and local agencies control violent and drug-related crime, improve operations, and build coordination and coop-

eration between all the components of the criminal justice system. Rep. Nunes requested that he maintain the \$500 million in the final appropriations bill.

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program has been a vital tool used to help states and local agencies fight crime and address security and safety concerns throughout their communities. Rep. Nunes requested that he support \$682 million for the COPS program

Methamphetamine

In a letter to Chairman Ernest Istook of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, Rep. Nunes expressed his continued support for the inclusion of a \$20 million increase in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funding in the House version of Transportation-Treasury Appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

In addition, Rep. Nunes requested that the \$20 million increase in HIDTA funding remain in the final version of the bill. Increased HIDTA funding is critical to the fight against production and trafficking of methamphetamine.

Commemorative

Chief Justice John Marshall

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 2768, the John Marshall Commemorative Coin Act. This commemorative coin would be issued to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Chief Justice John Marshall. As many know,

Chief Justice Marshall helped set many of the federal judicial precedents that the U.S. Supreme Court uses to this day, and his contributions in the area of Supreme Court decisions (such as *Marbury v. Madison*) set the course for a new country.

Former Rep. James Hansen (R-UT)

Former Rep. James Hansen (R-UT) served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 to 2003. Before leaving Congress he was the Chairman of the House Resources Committee of which Congressman Nunes is a member. Although Congressman Nunes did not have the opportunity to serve with Rep. Hansen, he recognizes all the great work that was accomplished during his time in Congress and agreed to co-sponsor H.R. 3147, which would rename one of the two federal buildings in all of Utah as the 'James V. Hansen Federal Building'.

Celia Cruz, the "Queen of Salsa"

Congressman Nunes recently sent to his colleagues about H.R. 3109, the Celia Cruz Commemorative Coin



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Legislative work—cont.'d

Act. This letter spoke about the legislation, which would create a one dollar silver coin in the name of Celia Cruz, the “Queen of Salsa.” Proceeds from this coin would go to the Celia Cruz Foundation, which provides financial aid to low-income students who wish to study music and for cancer research and cancer victim assistance. This letter asked other Members to sign up as co-sponsors.

Education

Currently, tuition increases are outpacing the rate of inflation and family incomes throughout the nation. Congressman Nunes believes that our tax code should encourage employers to further the education of their employees’ dependents, just as it encourages retirement savings. Consequently, he has become an original co-sponsor of the Education Savings Act.

This bill would clarify that employers can make tax-

deductible contributions to employees 529 and 530 education savings accounts for all employees at every income level. Furthermore, it would clarify that any amount contributed to these accounts will NOT count towards an employee’s gross income.

Environment

Wetlands Easement - Tulare Basin

Rep. Nunes, along with a number of his colleagues, wrote to Director Steven Williams of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to urge him to promptly take the necessary and appropriate steps to initiate the establishment of the wetlands easement program for the Tulare Basin duck clubs which lie in Tulare and Kern counties.

A proposal has been submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service that would provide for protection of these wetlands areas through conservation easements funded by Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp (“Duck Stamps”) revenues paid for by waterfowl hunters, not appropriated tax dollars. It is his understanding that there have been preliminary meetings held on the subject at the local level and there is broad support for the establishment of just such an easement acquisition

program.

Eco-terrorism

Recent attacks on buildings and auto dealerships in California by militant “environmental activists” resulted in over \$2.5 million in damages. This destruction – purportedly in the name of environmentalism – caused hundreds of tons of pollutants to be released into the atmosphere, millions of dollars in property damage, and endangered the lives of innocent bystanders and emergency personnel. These radical acts amount to nothing more than domestic terrorism. Therefore, Rep. Nunes cosponsored the Stop Terrorism of Property Act. The STOP Act will amend the federal code to include a provision on “eco-terrorism” and make these acts a federal crime.

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has had a significant negative impact on property values. Both residential and commercial land owners have suffered due to regulatory action under the ESA. Consequently, Rep. Nunes became an original cosponsor of the ESA Fair Compensation Act which would change the present unfair system. Under this legislation, any action taken under ESA, that reduces the fair market value of any non-federal property (including water rights) by 20 percent or more shall be treated as a taking of property for which compensation is required to be paid under the fifth article of amendment to the Constitution which states

“nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.”

Foreign Relations

Laos

As part of Rep. Nunes’ continued effort to bring to light the terrible acts of the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, he cosponsored legislation that called for an urgent need for freedom, democratic reform, and international monitoring of elections and human rights in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The legislation was introduced by Rep. Dan Burton (R-IN)

Rep. Nunes, along with a number of his colleagues, sent a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell asking that he designate the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) a “country of particular concern” (CPC) pursuant to the criteria stated in the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that the LPDR be designated a CPC for “gross violations of human rights, including religious freedom.” Rep. Nunes urged him to follow the commission’s recommendation and designate Laos a CPC this year.

Grant Support and Announcements

Education

The City of Tulare was awarded \$50,000 from the



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Legislative work—cont.'d

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services program. These grant funds will be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds.

Visalia Unified School District was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Community Technology Centers Program for \$475,850. The grant funds will be used to establish a Community Technology Center in each of the four district high schools. The project will increase academic achievement, expand access to information technology to the economically disadvantaged, increase employability of student participants by improving career preparation skills, increase parental involvement, and provide support to the school district by strengthening ties to the business community.

The Police Activities League/Sanger Interagency Youth Community Services was awarded a grant of \$100,000 through the Drug-Free Communities Support Program from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy. The grant will help reduce substance abuse among youth and strengthen community anti-drug coalitions.

Community Development

The cities of Dinuba (\$35,000), Lindsay (\$70,000), Woodlake (\$35,000), and the County of Tulare (\$70,000) were each awarded funds through the State of California Department of Housing and



Community Development-Planning and Technical Assistance Allocation of the State Community Development Block Grant Program. These grants will help the communities lay the groundwork for affordable housing and economic development activities that will benefit low-income residents.

Healthcare

Nurses

Last year, Congress took the critical step of passing the Nurse Reinvestment Act, which expanded and improved the nursing workforce development program. With our nation struggling with a growing shortage of registered nurses, proper funding of this program is essential. Congressman Nunes urged House and Senate appropriators to provide an additional \$50 million in this year's spending package to address nursing education and recruitment.

Medicaid

As Congress continues to work out details on the final Medicare reform bill, Congressman Nunes joined a bipartisan group of California Representatives supporting the inclusion of full funding for the Disproportionate

Share Hospital (DSH) payment program, which helps to offset the expenses incurred by providers serving Medicaid patients and others who are underinsured. Congressman Nunes was an original cosponsor of H.R. 1, the House version of the Medicare reform bill, which included this important provision. The drastic payment reductions absorbed this year by California's safety net providers threaten access to necessary health care services for Medicaid recipients, the uninsured and all Californians. The House Medicaid DSH provision would go a long way toward improving the stability of the healthcare safety net around the nation.

Mining

Within the 21st Congressional District there are fifty five companies, with a total sales of over \$100 million, that use mining materials. To assist these companies and the folks they employ, Rep. Nunes joined the Congressional Mining Caucus. This Caucus was established to educate Members on regulatory and legislative ideas and how they impact the mining industry. The Caucus will serve as an education and information resource for Members, and will address the present and future needs of the U.S. mining industry. The end goal is to promote policies which balance economic, political and environmental concerns.

Academy Night draws big crowd

Dozens of students and their parents turned out for Rep. Devin Nunes' first Academy Night.

The event featured keynote speaker Brig. General Ed Munger and was held at the Heritage Complex of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Representatives from four U.S. service academies offered insights on the application process of becoming a cadet.

Gen. Munger inspired attendees with his insights on military life and told the students a life of service is a worthy goal both in and out of the military.

He cautioned the crowd of believing everything they read and heard about the progress being made in Iraq. He said many of the more positive stories are being ignored.

Also on hand was an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

"Our service academies are producing this nation's next generation of great leaders. I'm happy to say there are many outstanding candidates right here in Fresno and Tulare counties who are qualified to join those ranks," the congressman said.

Mr. Nunes is forming a five-member selection committee made up of Fresno and Tulare county community members to interview candidates and make recommendations to the congressman for each academy.

There are four U.S. Service Academies that require a nomination from a member of Congress or the Vice President in order to attend. They include: U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

Cadets who are chosen for a military academy receive an education valued at about \$300,000 that is no cost to them. Upon graduation, cadets have a military rank and are required to serve their particular branch of the military for a designated period of time.



(From left to right) Lt. Col. Gerald G. Garwick USMC (ret.) (rep from West Point), Rep. Nunes, Brig. General Ed Munger (ret.) (guest speaker), Lt. Col. Bruce Goetas USAF (rep from Air Force Academy) and Herb Borup USNR Officer (ret.) (rep from Kings Point)



Rep. Nunes and Brig. General Ed Munger pose for a quick photo in front of an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station Lemoore.



(From left to right) Karl Peterson, a counselor from Clovis East High School, and Gary Prentice, a counselor from Clovis High School, gather information about the Merchant Marine Academy from Herb Borup USNR Officer (ret.)